

RESOLUTION No. 12-387

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that a distinguished citizen, Mr. Donald M. Hodge, will be honored with the "Civic/Community Award" during the Eleventh Annual Leadership Awards Program sponsored by the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter, Inc., of the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, Inc., held at the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center on the beautiful campus of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University on June 2, 2012; and,

WHEREAS, Donald M. Hodge was born on January 11, 1949, with his fraternal twin brother Ronald, to Ledora Hodge. He was raised in a loving family of four brothers and one sister: James, his twin brother Ronald, twins Jacob and Joseph and Doris; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Hodge grew up in Opelika, Alabama, and played football, baseball, and ran track throughout elementary and high school. During his first season of football in middle school, he ran for seventeen touchdowns as a quarterback. He attended Darden and Opelika High Schools where he was a star football player and excellent student athlete. Donald attended Alabama A&M University where he played football as a running back. He received his B.S. Degree in physics and math, and his M.S. Degree in applied physics, specializing in optics/laser from Alabama A&M University. He was one of the first three Master of Physics students to graduate from A&M, and he was the first thesis candidate in that field; and,

WHEREAS, he is a member of Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church and serves on the Senior Usher Board. He is also affiliated with the Huntsville Alumni Chapel of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, where he is the chairperson of the annual Kappa football camp, and the Huntsville Beautification Board; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Hodge has coached eight and under football in the City of Huntsville for 30 years and has won the Huntsville city championship for the last sixteen years losing only one game during that time. Besides instilling football knowledge and discipline into his team, he encourages his players to take part in other activities, such as attending church, watching high school games, and collecting canned goods for the needy. Mr. Hodge wants his players to respect their parents and teachers as well as have a good report card and understand that there are consequences if they do not. He hopes his players will always remember Coach Donald M. Hodge's Motto, "Mind God, mind parents, do well in school, and you will be a winner." A few young men Mr. Hodge has coached are: Trevor Lacey, Mr. Alabama Basketball 2010 and 2011; the Butler High School state basketball championship team starting line-up in 2008, 2009 and 2011; Kipchuno K. Hodge, Liberty Middle School P.E. teacher and football coach; Kenyon Hambrick, a starting wide receiver with Alabama A&M University; Wayne Makin, Mississippi State University and starting quarter-back for three years and Rashad Moore, a graduate of The University of Tennessee and player in the National Football League; and,

WHEREAS, one of the most significant moments in Coach Hodge's career was when the City of Huntsville and community proclaimed Donald M. Hodge Day, July 18, 2009, and by naming the Metro home field the "Donald M. Hodge Football Field." He is currently employed at the U.S. Army Space Missile Defense Command as an Engineer in the Directed Energy Division, Solid State Laser and High-Power Microwave. He has done intensive research in areas of Thin Disk and Cryogenic Lasers and has written topics in areas of "High Power Eye-Safe Fiber Components", "Pulse Power and Energy Sources for High Power

RESOLUTION NO. 12-387

May 24, 2012

Page 2

Microwave and High Power Laser", and "Innovative Sensors to Detect and Track Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) at Extreme Distance;" and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Hodge has one son, Kipchuno Keino Hodge, and two grandsons, Amir and Kameron. When he is not working, Donald loves to work in his flower garden, cook, and watch old black and white western movies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, gratefully acknowledge and congratulate Mr. Donald M. Hodge, 2012 "Civic/Community Award" Honoree, and extend best wishes to him and the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter, Inc., of the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, Inc., for continued success in all future endeavors.

ADOPTED on this the 24th day of May, 2012.

President of the City Council of the
City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED on this the 24th day of May, 2012.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama